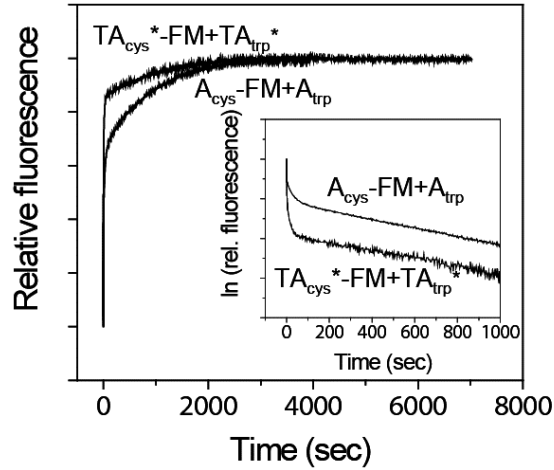


Supporting information



The slow relaxation in strand exchange experiments is well described by simple exponential decay (indicated by a straight line on a semi log plot). Removal of the histidine tag does not affect leucine zipper strand exchange kinetics at pH 7.4. Exponential decay fitting revealed that τ_e is 950.9 ± 5.1 s ($A_{cys}\text{-FM} + A_{trp}$) and 955.6 ± 13.0 s ($TA_{cys}^*\text{-FM} + TA_{trp}^*$), respectively, before and after removing the histidine tag (100 mM phosphate buffer, 100 μ M leucine zipper, 22°C). The similarity between these two strand exchange times is clearly evident in the parallel time courses on a semi-log plot (inset). The difference in the amplitude of the fluorescence dequenched through strand exchange is probably due to different extents of labeling.